



Office of Environmental Health E-Newsletter

Electronic version available at: www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/rs/ehnl.htm

January 2005

What's ACDEHSA?

The Arizona County Directors of Environmental Health Services Association, Inc. (ACDEHSA) is a private non-profit Arizona corporation. It is comprised of individuals responsible for providing direction to environmental and/or public health services for each of the county governments in Arizona. The purpose of the organization is to:

- Improve public health and environmental protection programs.
- Study common public health and environmental protection problems and solutions.
- Provide policymakers and the public with information necessary for the enactment of sound legislation, rules and regulations affecting county health and environmental agencies.
- Support public health and environmental protection

policy issues beneficial to the provision of local environmental and public health services.

- Promote training for public health and environmental personnel.
- Provide a forum to discuss public health and environmental protection issues.
- Cooperate with other professional health and environmental organizations.

Generally, ACDEHSA meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the County Supervisor's Association building in Phoenix, Arizona. Citizens or organizations that want to present issues to ACDEHSA should contact the Environmental Health Director in their county.

Southwest Food Safety Conference and Exhibition

The Southwest Food Safety Conference and Exhibition, scheduled for February 16 - 17, 2005 in Laughlin, Nevada, has an excellent and full agenda of

food safety and food biosecurity presentations including legal issues, national food safety trends, food biosecurity, software demonstration, ethnic foods, food borne outbreaks, and a variety of exhibitors.

For additional conference details and registration information, please contact Chris Reimus at (480) 820-7655 x202 or email at creimus@mail.maricopa.gov.

County Audits Scheduled for Early 2005

One of the objectives of the Healthy Arizona 2010 initiative is, "Reduce the prevalence of food borne illnesses in Arizona by reducing risk factors for food borne illness in restaurants and retail food establishments 25% by 2010." One of the strategies to address this objective is, "Complete audits (by 2005) of all county health departments to determine effectiveness of food safety programs."

In this effort, ADHS will be conducting audits of the 15 Arizona Counties' food safety

programs from February 1 through April 30, 2005. The audit findings and results should be compiled in a report by June 30, 2005.

North Region Tribal Bioterrorism Conference

The North Region Bioterrorism Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2005 from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM in Flagstaff, Arizona. Session topics include animal biosecurity, anthrax, West Nile Virus, Health Alert Network, risk communication and other interesting issues.

For additional conference details and registration information, please contact Sherri Helton, BT Tribal Liaison, Navajo County, at (928) 524-4750 x21 or email at sherri.helton@co.navajo.az.us.

Good-bye to Ben Stepleton

After more than 14 years of dedicated environmental health service to Arizona, Ben Stepleton and his wife are moving to Tampa Bay, Florida. Ben is currently the Director of Environmental Health for Santa Cruz County where he also held the Chief Sanitarian position. Ben started his environmental health career in 1990 as a Field Sanitarian with Pinal County.

Good-bye Ben! And good luck with all your future endeavors.

Reminder: FDA Food Code Course May 24-26, 2005

The FDA three-day training course, *Food Code*, will be held on May 24 - 26, 2005 at the ADHS Building in Phoenix.

The course will include training on the Food Code and the public health rationale for the Code. The course is also designed to prepare regulators on the application of the Food Code in retail food establishments.

Topics will include: management's duties and responsibilities, employee health, food, equipment, water, plumbing, waste, physical facilities, poisonous and toxic materials, compliance, and enforcement.

For additional details and course registration information, please contact Bob Gomez, RS, at (602) 364-3140 or email at gomezr@azdhs.gov.

School Rule Change Update

A draft version of rule changes under Title 9, Chapter 8 for Schools is now available from ADHS.

Bob Gomez, RS, is the ADHS contact for this rule change and he can be reached at (602) 364-3140 or gomezr@azdhs.gov.

Food Safety and Environmental Services Annual Report

The ADHS Food Safety and Environmental Services Section FY 2004 Annual Activity Summary Report is now available on-line at: www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/oehreports.htm

Important ADHS Office of Environmental Health Phone Numbers:

Main Office: (602) 364-3118
Children's Environmental Health: (602) 364-3131
Helpline: 1-800-367-6412
Food Safety: (602) 364-3122
Risk Assessments: (602) 364-3129
SunWise: (602) 364-3143

Newsletter comments or questions can be directed to Bob Gomez, RS, Program Manager for Food Safety and Environmental Services at (602) 364-3140 or gomezr@azdhs.gov.
